

# HOW ENGLAND GREW UP

BY  
JESSIE  
POPE





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HOW ENGLAND  
GREW UP









*The Landing of Cæsar*

*Before Chr. 55*



# HOW ENGLAND GREW UP

By  
**Jessie Pope**



**With Fifty-four  
Illustrations**

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## THE LANDING OF CAESAR

ONCE upon a time, and a very long time ago, all the children in England lived in the country, because there were no towns. The people lived in rough untidy huts, surrounded by wild marsh lands and thick forests, instead of blackberry hedges and daisy meadows, and the boys and girls were never allowed to picnic in the forests for fear of the wild animals, which their fathers could not kill because they had no proper weapons. In cold weather they wrapped themselves in sheep-

skins, and when it was warm they didn't trouble to wear anything at all.

One day, when this had been going on a long time, a Roman general, named Julius Cæsar, sailed with a lot of Roman soldiers across the English Channel, till he came to the sea coast, not so very far from Margate. When the country people on the cliffs saw him coming they were very frightened, and very angry. The women ran to hide in the huts, dragging the children with them ; but the men rushed bravely down to the beach, and, leaping into the shallow water, tried to push

back the Roman boats and kill the soldiers. But they were not strong or clever enough, and Julius Cæsar landed safely without much trouble, and conquered the country.

But instead of treating the people cruelly, the Romans were kind and patient. They taught them to grow corn and build comfortable houses, and showed them how to make such splendid roads that they have lasted all these years, and we walk and drive along them to-day.





*The Introduction of Christianity*

*A.D. 597.*

## THE ENGLISH BECOME CHRISTIANS

**A**FTER a time, the Romans left England and went back to look after their own country, and the people soon forgot all they had been taught, and went back to their bad habits. They were heathens, and thought that oak trees and mistletoe boughs were sacred, and they often killed their mothers and fathers and uncles and aunts, and even their little boys and girls, to please their cruel gods. They had no lawyers or judges, but if a man was accused

of a crime he was allowed to prove his innocence, if he could, by " Trial by Ordeal." But this was no easy matter for, first of all, the prisoner was blindfolded, and then put into a place where the ground was strewn with red-hot ploughshares, and if he was lucky enough to walk between the ploughshares he was considered innocent.

But one day, Augustine, a kind monk, came to England to try to make the people Christians. King Ethelbert of Kent, and his good wife Queen Bertha, sat under a tree while Augustine talked to them. And while the King listened to the

Christian Gospel, his heart grew soft and gentle. He made Augustine Archbishop of Canterbury, and helped him to teach the people to turn away from their cruel gods, and try to be kind and forgiving to each other.



*Alfred the Great dividing the kingdom into Counties.*

*A.D. 900.*

## GOOD KING ALFRED

THE next good King after Ethelbert was Alfred the Great, who was kept busy nearly all his life fighting the Danes. These fierce pirates had been Britain's enemies ever since the Romans went away. But, fortunately, King Alfred was more than their match, for he was a hero as well as a King, and it is not easy for a man to be both.

One day, when he had lost a battle, he took refuge in the hut of a neatherd, whose wife made him watch some cakes baking, in return for

his night's lodging. The King was so busy sharpening his sword for the next day's fight, that he let the cakes burn, but he bore the cross woman's violent anger as good temperedly as he forgave her, when she found, to her shame, she had been scolding the King.

Another time, Alfred went into the Danish Camp disguised as a minstrel. While he was singing to the soldiers, he discovered that they were not ready to fight, so fetched his army the next day and defeated them. But Alfred was a kind conqueror, and after persuading the Danish leader to become a Christian,



he divided England into two parts, gave the top half to the Danes and ruled over the lower part himself.

Alfred the Great governed his kingdom wisely, because he had first learned to govern himself. He was a good Christian, a splendid fighter, and one of the best gentlemen that ever lived.



*Canute rebuking the Flatterers*

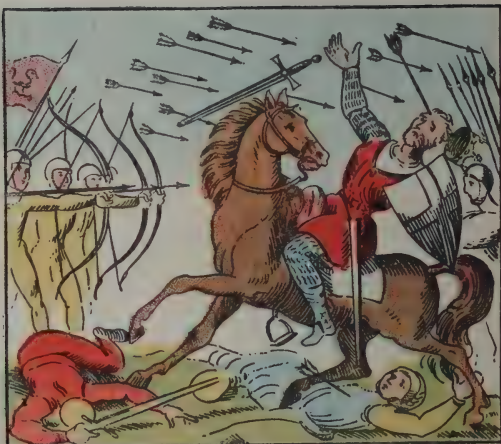
*A.D. 1028*

## CANUTE AND THE WAVES

THE Dánes became so powerful when Alfred died, that at last their leader, Canute, became King over the whole country. Luckily, Canute was not only a strong-willed man, but a just King, and though he was surrounded by servile courtiers, he was too wise to be deceived by their flattery. One day, when he was at the seaside, his courtiers came up, bowing and scraping as usual, and exclaimed that his strength and power were so unbounded that even the sea would obey him !

Canute smiled as if he were pleased, then he commanded them all to come down on the beach, and place his chair at the brink of the waves, though the tide was rising fast. Sitting down, he raised his right hand, and in a majestic voice ordered the waves to retire, although he knew very well they wouldn't do anything of the sort. On came the tide in the usual way, flowing all round him, until he had to gather up his kingly robes and paddle back to the beach, leaving his chair to be washed out to sea. Then Canute turned to his courtiers, and sternly reminded them that only their Creator could say

to the waves, "Thus far and no farther." The courtiers were thoroughly ashamed of themselves, and never forgot this lesson—that though praise is very pleasant at times, too much of it becomes wearisome to intelligent people.—



*The Battle of Hastings.*

*AD 1066*

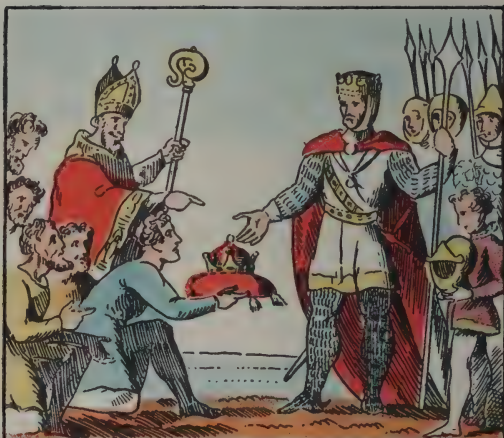
## THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS

**A**T last there came a day when the only heir to the throne was a little boy, and as the people knew he was too young to look after the country, they asked an English Earl, named Harold, to be King. It was no easy task to take care of England just then, for the King of Norway had landed an invading army on the Yorkshire coast, and William of Normandy was bearing down on Sussex with a thousand vessels and 60,000 men. But Harold simply loved fighting, so he gladly hurried his



army up to York, and fought not only the King of Norway, but his own brother Tostig, who had deserted him, killed them both, and won a great victory. Then he hurried south again to stop William of Normandy landing in Sussex. But he was too late. All he could do was to gather his army on a hill near Hastings, and fight for England till he dropped. Again and again the Norman soldiers charged the hill, but they could not move the English, until they pretended to run away, when Harold's followers foolishly pursued them, only to be slain by the French cavalry. Seeing that Harold

was still fighting hard on the hill, William ordered his archers to shoot into the air. A falling arrow pierced Harold's eye, and he fell to the ground to rise no more.



*William the Conqueror accepts the Crown.*

*AD 1066*

## THE NORMAN CONQUEST

**W**ILLIAM OF NORMANDY was now William the Conqueror, and the English asked him to be King of England, because they knew he would be, whether they asked him or not. He was crowned on Christmas Day, and began his reign by giving the English castles to his own nobles for Christmas presents. However, William knew how to keep his nobles in order, and this was a good thing, as they were cruel, greedy men. The people were badly treated by their Norman masters,

though William had one or two good ideas which really helped the country. One of these was the Domesday Book, where a list was kept of all the estates of England, and the men who owned them. Another of his ideas was the Curfew Bell, which rang at eight o'clock every night, and was a signal that all lights must be put out. The people were 'put out,' too, and complained very much about it, but it saved many outbreaks of fire in their wooden houses ; and in those days, if your house caught fire, you just had to let it burn and make the best of it, for there were no fire engines.

William was a harsh ruler, but he did the English a lot of good, and made England a more powerful and important country in the eyes of other nations.



*William Rufus slain in New Forest*

*AD. 1100.*



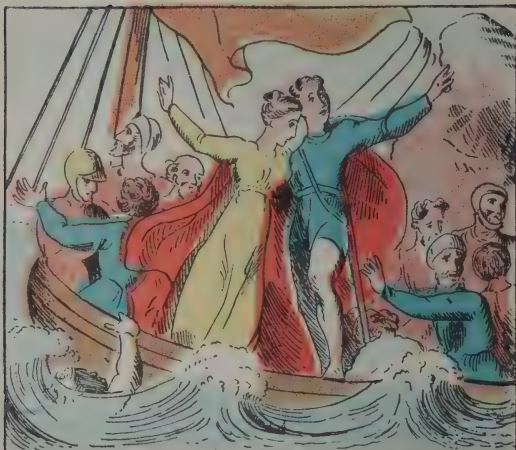
## THE RED-HAIRED KING

**W**HEN William died, his red-haired son, William Rufus, reigned over England. He was as hard and stern as his father, but the English preferred him to his easy-going brother, Robert, because those Norman nobles still wanted a lot of keeping in order, and although Rufus was strict with the English, he was strict with the Normans too. Like most of us, William always wanted his own way, and, unlike most of us, he always got it. One day, when he was anxious to cross

the Channel to fight a battle in Normandy, the sailors refused to start because of the rough sea. "Nonsense," cried William, "did you ever hear of a king being drowned?" And as they never had, they set sail and landed him in safety on the French shore, when he fought his battle and won it.

Nobody liked William very much; he was too anxious to get money out of the people, and he took money from the Church, and never thought of paying it back again. He was very fond of sport, but one day he went hunting in the New Forest with an English gentleman named

Walter Tyrrell, and never came back again. An arrow which Walter Tyrrell aimed at a passing deer, or so he said, glanced off a tree and pierced the King through the breast. Terrified at what had happened, Tyrrell ran away, and it was not until some days later, that some peasants found William's dead body, and carried it to Winchester, where it was buried.



*The Shipwreck of Prince William Son of Henry 1<sup>st</sup>*  
*AD. 1120.*

## THE WRECK OF THE "WHITE SHIP "

RUFUS'S brother, Henry, hurried at once to Winchester, not so much to be present at the funeral, as to make sure of getting the Crown for himself. As nobody objected, he became Henry the First, and was quite friendly to the English, and he pleased the people by marrying an English wife, who was called Good Queen Maud. But England was too peaceful just then for Henry, so he went over to France, where there was some fighting going on, taking

Prince William, his only son, with him. When the war was over, Henry returned, leaving the young prince to follow with his sister, in a few days, in the "White Ship." Unfortunately, the captain and crew had had too much to drink before they started, and managed the "White Ship" so badly that she struck a rock and was wrecked. Prince William jumped into a boat, and would have escaped ; but hearing his sister scream, he insisted on going back for her. But so many frightened sailors jumped into the boat at the same time that it sank, and the poor young Prince and his

sister were drowned, clasped in each other's arms. The ship's captain threw himself into the sea when he heard the Prince was dead, and only one person, a French butcher, lived to tell the sad story. When King Henry heard it he fainted, and though he lived another fifteen years, he never smiled again.



*K Stephen at the Battle of Lincoln*

*AD 1140*

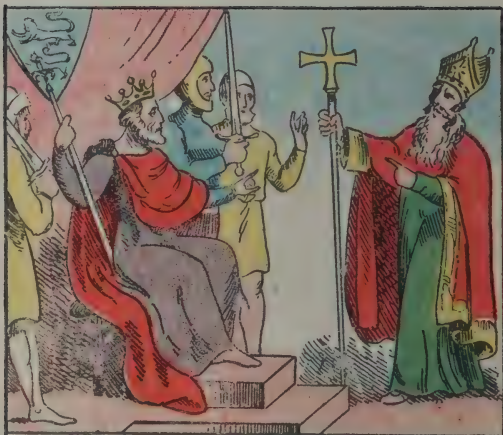


## STEPHEN AND MATILDA

WHEN Henry died, the English would not have his daughter Matilda for Queen, but chose her nephew, Stephen, instead. They said they wanted a king who could fight, not a queen who would sit by the fireside working tapestry. In this, they made a great mistake, for besides being a feeble ruler, Stephen was not half as good a soldier as Matilda, who soon gathered an army to win the crown for her son, Henry. While Stephen and Matilda were fighting, the Norman nobles had a

perfectly free time to do just what they liked. They built strong castles for themselves, and robbed everybody they could get hold of, for they knew the King was too busy with his own troubles to punish them. Poor England was in a dreadful state again, fighting everywhere, and nothing safe at all. Sometimes Queen Matilda won a battle, sometimes King Stephen. At Lincoln the King was so closely surrounded by his enemies that he was borne down to his knees, and was taken prisoner with his sword broken in his hand. Another time Matilda was besieged in Oxford for many months. At last, one

night, after a fall of snow, the Queen and her knights dressed themselves in white, and escaped safely across the snowy country. Queen Matilda got her own way at last, however, for, in the end, Stephen died, and her son Henry was made King.



*Thomas a'Becket before King Henry the second*

*AD. 1164.*

## THE MURDER OF BECKET

**I**T was no light task to break the power of the Norman nobles, but Henry II did it. No sooner was the crown on his head, than he pulled down their castles, sent their foreign soldiers back to their own countries, restored peace and order, and saw that the people got fair play. But King Henry was not the only strong and resolute man in England, there was another, almost as strong and quite as resolute. This was Thomas Becket, who became the King's favourite as well as his Chan-

cellor, because he was handsome, gay, and clever. If Becket had remained Chancellor, all would have been well, it was when Henry made him Archbishop of Canterbury that the trouble began. Becket tried to make the power of the Church greater than the power of the King, and soon became the King's enemy instead of his friend. At last, one day when the Archbishop had offended him more than usual, the King exclaimed, "Will no one rid me of this pestilent priest?"

No sooner had he spoken, than four of his knights hurried away to kill Becket in Canterbury Cathedral.

The priests wanted Becket to let them shut the doors, but he replied he would never shut anyone out of the House of God. So the four knights rushed to where Becket stood calmly waiting for them, and attacking him from all sides, cruelly murdered him. When King Henry heard about it he was sorry, and he walked barefoot to Becket's tomb to show his grief, and soon after died heartbroken, because his sons had rebelled against him.



*Richard I<sup>st</sup> in the Crusades.*

*A.D. 1191.*



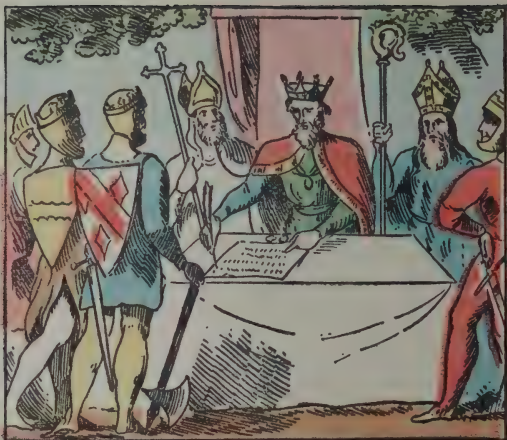
## OUR KING CRUSADER

**R**ICHARD THE FIRST, Henry's rebellious but penitent son, was a brave and generous man, and deserved his nickname, Lion Heart, though he was too fond of adventure to be a good King. He wore the crown for ten years, but he only stopped in England ten months, and spent all his time and England's money at the Crusades that is to say, in trying to rescue Jerusalem and the Holy Land from the Turks. Richard fought like a lion, and slew a great many Turks with his own

hand, but he could not rescue Jerusalem, and at last, when all his money was spent, he was obliged to return to England.

While travelling across Europe, he was kept a captive in a foreign castle for a whole year. As soon as the English people heard the fix he was in, they collected all the money they could and paid his ransom, and welcomed him back with open arms, although he had always neglected his own country. Richard could not settle down, and was soon fighting again, and it was while besieging a French castle that he was fatally wounded by an arrow

in the shoulder. They brought the bowman who shot the arrow before the dying King, and asked what death he should die. But Richard pardoned him, and set him free, which shows he not only had a lion heart but a kind one, too.



*King John signing Magna Carta*

*AD 1215*

## MAGNA CHARTA

JOHN, who came after Richard, was one of the worst Kings who ever reigned over England. He began by murdering his nephew, Prince Arthur, then he quarrelled with the Pope and the King of France, and, worst of all, with his own people. As they would not fight for him he sent for foreign soldiers, and made them kill the people and lay waste the land, as if it were an enemy's country instead of his own. At last the great men of England would stand it no longer. One day, when

his foreign soldiers had left him, and he only had a few knights left, they went to the King and demanded better behaviour on his part.

On a pleasant green field by the Thames at Windsor, called Runnymede, the sulky but helpless King John signed a paper promising not to tax people without their consent, and also that no man should be punished unless he had a fair trial. This paper was called Magna Charta—which is Latin for “The Great Charter.” Of course, John broke his promises, and was soon collecting an army in Lincolnshire to fight for him, but while he was doing it, all

his money and luggage were washed away by the tide in the Wash. This was bad luck for John, and upset him so much that he really worried himself to death about it a few days later.



*King Henry 3<sup>d</sup> rescued by his Son Prince Edward*

*AD 1265*



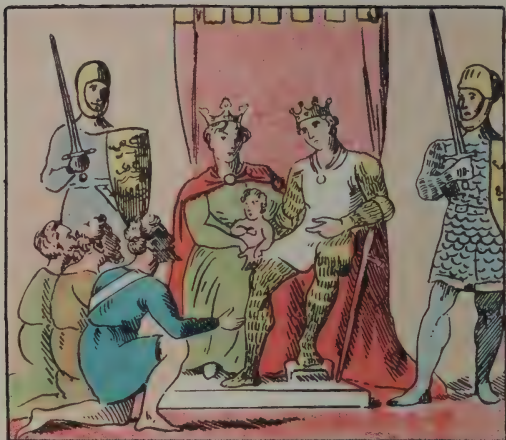
## THE PRINCE WHO SAVED HIS FATHER

JOHN'S little son, Henry the Third, was only nine years old when he was crowned, and it was some time before he was old enough to govern the country, and when he did grow up, he only made trouble by giving English lands to his foreign friends, which, naturally, offended the people they belonged to. Then the barons, under Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, formed the first English Parliament to make laws for the good of the people. Simon de Mont-

fort fought Henry and his son Edward and took them both prisoners, and ruled England well and wisely himself.

The English people loved De Montfort, and had reason to, but the other barons soon got jealous of him. Hearing this, the young Prince Edward determined to escape, and at last managed to do so by a clever trick. He made his keepers ride races to amuse him, then when their horses were tired, he raced away from them on his own horse, which was quite fresh, and gathering some men together, fought a battle with Simon de Montfort, who had

the King with him as a prisoner. The brave young Prince cut his way through his enemies, until he reached his father, whom he rescued, while Simon de Montfort and his son were killed, and it seemed at the time as if all his hard work to help the people was wasted.



*Edward the First presenting his infant Son to the Welsh*  
*A.D. 1284*

## THE FIRST PRINCE OF WALES

**B**UT no good work is ever wasted, and when Prince Edward became King of England, he was wise enough to follow Simon de Montfort's example in many ways, and made good laws for his people, but he never made a law without finding out first what the people thought of it. By this time the English were getting people of importance, and though they did not make many things themselves, they traded a great deal with other nations who did, and were nearly as up-to-date as their

neighbours. Edward I was one of the best kings England ever had, because he thought of his country before he thought of himself. He conquered Wales, but instead of treating the Welsh cruelly, he called their great men together, and, much to their delight, gave them a present—his baby son to be their Prince—and that is why the King's eldest son is called Prince of Wales to this day.

But Edward could not conquer Scotland. He tried again and again, and at last he died, when he was on the way there with an army, for the last time. But the brave old King

had so set his heart on winning Scotland, that he begged his son to take his body along with the army, and not to bury it till the country was conquered.



*Edward 1<sup>st</sup> put to flight at Bannock-burn.*

*A.D. 1314.*



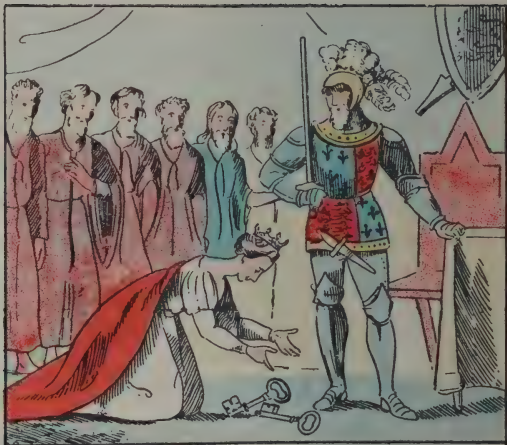
## THE BATTLE OF BANNOCK- BURN

**B**UT Edward's son did not obey his father's request. The old King was buried at once at Westminster, and Edward the Second forgot all about Scotland, until Robert Bruce, the Scotch King, became so powerful that at last he was obliged to lead a great English army up northward to conquer him.

The armies met at Bannockburn, but before the battle began, Bruce made his men dig deep pits filled with sharp stakes, hidden with pieces

of turf. When the English came rushing forward in a gallant charge, both horses and riders fell in the pits, the horses were caught on the stakes, and everything was confusion. A fierce fight followed, and though their army was the biggest, the English could not beat back the Scotch from the position they had taken. At last, seeing a new crowd of people come over the hill, the tired English army thought they were more Scotch soldiers, and King Edward retreated as fast as he could with his soldiers after him. This crowd of people, as it happened, was only the Scotch servants and

luggage carriers, but they helped Scotland to win one of her greatest battles, for after Bannockburn Scotland was never conquered again.



*The Surrender of Calaise. Edward 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
A.D. 1347.*

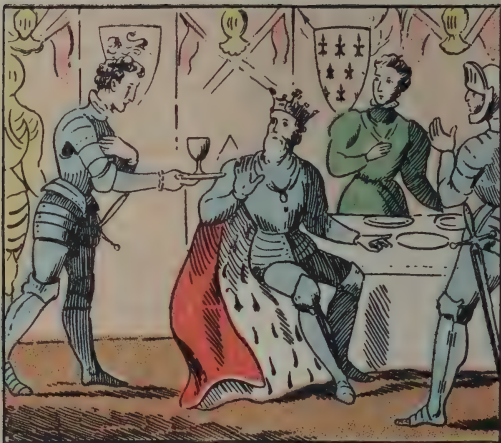
## THE BRAVE MEN OF CALAIS

**W**HEN Edward the Third came to the throne, he thought he had a right to the Crown of France as well, and started a war with that country, which lasted, on and off, for a hundred years. By this time, the English archers were the finest bowmen in the world, and the English won battle after battle in France.

The town of Calais, however, was very difficult to take, and the English army surrounded the walls for eleven months before it surrendered. Then,

when the people were starving, and could hold out no longer, the gates were flung open, and twelve of the chief citizens, bare headed and bare footed, with ropes round their necks, came to King Edward, as he sat at his tent door. They laid the keys of the city at his feet, and told him they were quite willing that he should hang them with the ropes they had brought, if only he would spare the rest of the citizens. Edward thought this was a good idea, and would have taken them at their word, if his kind wife Eleanor had not fallen on her knees and begged the King to let the brave men go free. The

King consented, but he turned all the French out of Calais, and put English people there instead, and the town belonged to England for two hundred years.



*Edward the Black Prince attending on King John of France.  
A.D. 1356*



## THE BLACK PRINCE

ONE of the sons of Edward the Third was called the Black Prince, because he always wore dull black armour. The people loved him, for he was a gallant fighter, and spent his life, which was only a short one, fighting his father's battles in France. When he was only sixteen he fought at Crecy, and though the King was there as well, he only looked on at the battle from a wind-mill. When the fighting was very fierce, the King was asked to send help to the young Prince, who was

in a tight corner, but he refused, saying, " Let the boy win his spurs," for in those days a man won a pair of spurs, instead of a medal, if he was very brave. This made the Prince fight harder than ever, and he not only won the battle, but a pair of gold spurs from his proud and delighted father.

When, ten years later, he fought another great battle, and made a prisoner of the King of France himself, the Black Prince took his royal captive to his own tent, set a meal before him, and waited upon him with his own hands ; and when the King of France entered London

as a prisoner, the Black Prince mounted him on a noble charger, and rode humbly at his side on a humble little palfrey himself.



*Richard II<sup>d</sup> resigning the Crown*

*A.D. 1399.*

## THE KING WHO GAVE UP HIS CROWN

**I**T was a great pity that the brave Black Prince died before he could be King, and a greater pity that his little son became Richard II of England when he was only ten years old. However, this just suited his two uncles, who were chosen to govern the country until Richard grew up. They did it so badly that when the King was sixteen, the peasants and small farmers, who were called "villeins," marched to London, breaking open prisons and

burning palaces on their way. The Royal boy, who was not without some of his father's courage, rode out to meet them, and when the two parties came close together, the people's leader, named Wat Tyler, was stabbed to death by the Lord Mayor of London. His followers rushed forward with loud cries of vengeance, but young Richard rode boldly to them, crying, " / will be your leader." Then, promising he would also be their friend, he sent them quietly back to their homes.

But Richard did not keep his promises, partly because his uncles would not let him, and partly be-

cause he had not a very strong will of his own. Even when his uncles were dead, his life was full of worry, and he himself was to blame for many of his troubles. He did not please his nobles or his people, or even himself, and in the end he was forced to take the crown off his head and hand it over to his cousin, Henry.



*King Henry 4 in his last illness admonishing the Prince of Wales*  
*AD 1413*



## HARUM SCARUM PRINCE

### HAL

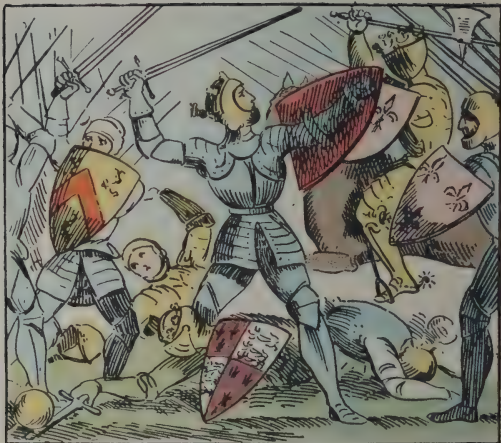
**I**F Richard II did not get much enjoyment out of being King, his cousin, Henry IV, got less. He knew he had no right to the crown, and his enemies knew it, too, which did not make things any pleasanter for him. The people were getting unruly, that is to say, they were beginning to have opinions of their own, and some of them, called the Lollards—who said that the monks and bishops had too much power—were burnt alive as a punishment.

But the fact that a few people are doomed to a cruel death only strengthens the bitter feeling of injustice in the hearts of their friends, though for a time they may seem beaten and subdued.

The King had a harum scarum son, called Prince Hal, who loved fighting, and proved himself a brave and gallant young soldier in defeating one of his father's many enemies, Owen Glendower, a Welshman. But instead of setting a good example to the people in other ways, Prince Hal was so wild and unmanageable, that once a strong-minded judge actually sent him to prison for break-

ing the laws of the country.

But the Prince had a good heart in spite of all his wild ways, and he was the first one to admit that the judge was right to punish him. Still, he went his own headstrong way, and no one could stop him, till one day he heard his father, the King, was dying. Then, all at once, he became very sorry and ashamed of himself, and hurrying to his father's bedside, he promised with bitter tears of repentance, that he would be a good man and a just King.



*The Battle of Agincourt*

*A.D. 1415*

## THE BATTLE OF AGINCOURT

**I**T is easier to make promises than to keep them, but Prince Hal, who was now Henry V, did not break his word. He was good to the people, and gave them more power, so that they could be more comfortable and independent. Henry was always ready for a fight, and as the King of France was mad, he thought it would be a fine chance for him to seize the French throne. But his army was unfortunate. Thousands of soldiers died of disease, and the King decided to come home again

with the few men he had left. However, when he reached Agincourt, in France, he found his way barred by a great French army, six times as large as his own. "I wish we had some of the idle Englishmen at home here to help us," cried one of his lords. "I don't," replied Henry. "I would not have a man more !"

He made his soldiers take long poles of wood with sharpened ends, and stick them slanting into the ground before them, and behind these he placed his brave archers. Rainy weather had made the ground like a swamp, and when the gallant

French cavalry charged the English, first their horses began to slip in the mud, next they were pierced with the sharply-pointed poles, and, last of all, the English arrows came raining upon them, and completed their confusion. King Henry was here, there, and everywhere, in the thickest of the fight, and in three hours' time fifteen thousand Frenchmen were killed and ten thousand taken prisoners. England had won a glorious victory, and the French King promised Henry he should be King after him, and gave him the hand of a French princess in marriage.



*- The Contention of the Roses of York and Lancaster  
A.D. 1455*



## THE WARS OF THE ROSES

**B**UT Henry the Fifth died before he could become King of France, and during the reign of Henry VI, England was too full of her own troubles to bother about French affairs. For Englishmen were fighting a war against each other, called the "Wars of the Roses," and though it was a pretty name, the war itself caused misery and bloodshed for many years. The quarrel was first started between two great families—the House of York and the House of Lancaster—who were jealous of each

other's power. One day, when the leaders had met in a garden, and were quarrelling as usual, they turned to their followers and told them to pick a white rose if they sided with the House of York, and a red rose if they sided with the House of Lancaster. That was how the war got its pretty name, for after that day every soldier wore either a white or red rose, to show which side he belonged to.

The King was a Lancastrian, but as he was sometimes out of his mind, his brave wife, Queen Margaret, was really the head of his party. But the Red Roses got the worst of

it, the White Rose soldiers won all the battles, and the King and Queen were obliged to fly for their lives. Once, when the poor Queen and her little boy were hiding in a forest, they were captured by a gang of robbers, who were very rude to the Queen, and stole all her jewels. But while they were quarrelling together over their treasure, the Queen and the little Prince managed to slip away unseen, and a kind robber who met them, hid them in his hut, and helped them to escape safely to France.



*Lady Eliz<sup>h</sup> Gray before King Edward 4*  
*AD 1469*

## A KING'S LOVE STORY

**W**HEN the Red Rose of Lancaster was defeated, the leader of the White Rose party, the Duke of York, was crowned King Edward the IV. One of his powerful nobles was the Earl of Warwick, who was called the "King Maker," because he had helped so many kings to their thrones. He was very anxious that Edward IV should marry one of his two daughters ; but, unfortunately for the "King Maker's" schemes, Edward fell in love with somebody else. This was a beautiful young widow,

named Elizabeth Grey, whose husband had been killed fighting for the Red Rose party, and the poor lady was so afraid that her little sons would lose their inheritance and have nowhere to go, that she came to Edward, and, falling on her knees, begged him to protect her boys. The King gently raised her to her feet, promised his protection, and so admired her lovely face that he married her shortly afterwards. The Earl of Warwick was very angry, and marched out to fight the King at Barnet, near London. Most of his men, however, deserted him, and seeing that there was no hope,

he rushed into the thick of the fight, and was killed, preferring to die rather than be taken prisoner.

During Edward's reign, a clever man named William Caxton showed the English people how to print books in a printing press, instead of writing them by hand. This meant there were more books, and the children of England had a better chance of learning to read, which was a good thing for them, though they may not have thought so at the time.



*The Murder of the Two Princes in the Tower.*

*A D 1483*



## THE PRINCES IN THE TOWER

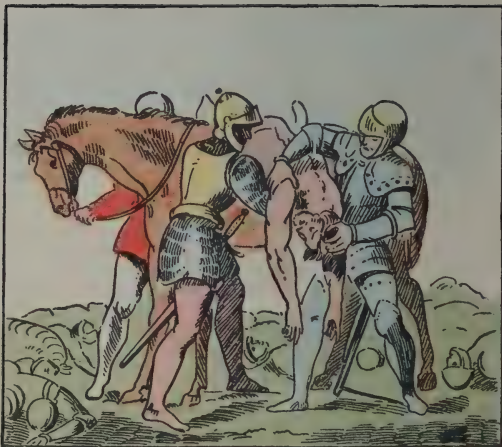
**E**DWARD THE FIFTH was only thirteen years old when the crown of England was put on his head, and he only reigned eleven weeks, because his uncle, Richard, who had a humpback and a withered arm, made the people choose him to be King instead. Poor little Edward was imprisoned in the Tower with his younger brother, the Duke of York, who was only eleven. But though their uncle was now King Richard III, he was not easy in his mind, and was always worrying about

those two boys, who would, some day, be old enough to fight him for the crown. So he determined that they never *should* be old enough, and one night he sent two men into the room where the two little boys lay quietly asleep, clasped in each other's arms. The men took large pillows and pressing them on the faces of the poor young Princes, smothered them in their sleep. The bodies were thrown into a deep hole under the stairs and covered with stones, but two hundred years afterwards they were dug up again, and reverently buried in Westminster Abbey.

Richard now felt more at his ease, but the people hated him, and would have punished him for this cruel murder, if he had not been their King. He only had three friends, named Catesby, Ratcliffe, and Lord Lovell, and this is the rhyme that used to be sung about them, secretly :

“ The Rat, the Cat, and Lovell the  
dog,

Rule all England under the Hog.”  
The Hog, of course, meant Richard, and though the people disliked the “ Rat,” the “ Cat ” and the “ Dog,” they detested the “ Hog ” most of all.



*The Body of Richard 3thrown across a horse after  
the Battle of Bosworth.* AD 1485

## A CRUEL KING

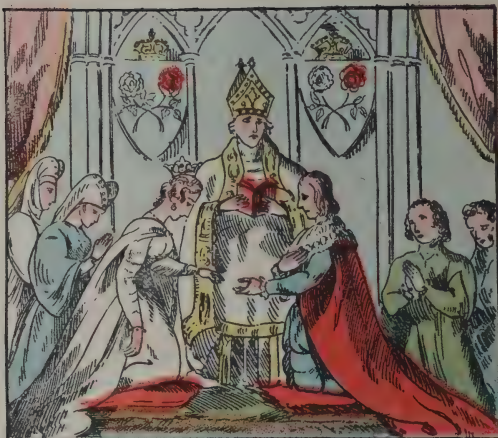
**A**LTHOUGH Richard the Third was cruel and selfish at heart, he tried to please the people at first by making good laws, but he was soon tired of keeping them, and the nobles who had made him King bitterly regretted their mistake. However, there was still one great man left, who belonged to the Red Rose party, Henry, Earl of Richmond, who, with the help of Queen Elizabeth, the mother of the murdered Princes, soon became a powerful rival to the humpbacked King, and

managed to get an army together to fight Richard Crook-Back, as he was called. The two armies came face to face at Bosworth Field, in Leicestershire.

Although he was a cripple, Richard was a valiant fighter, and rushed furiously into the thick of the battle, in his anxiety to find Richmond, and kill him with his own hands. But before he could do so, he was struck down and slain himself, and his battered crown, which had rolled into a gorse bush, was picked up and placed on the head of the victorious Henry, Earl of Richmond, who was proclaimed King Henry

VII, on the battlefield.

Richard's misshapen body was thrown across a horse, and hurriedly buried at a monastery in Leicester, called Grey Friars, and it is said that in later years his stone coffin was used as a horse trough.



*The Union of the two Roses of York & Lancaster by the marriage of K. Henry 7 and Princess Elizabeth. AD.1485*



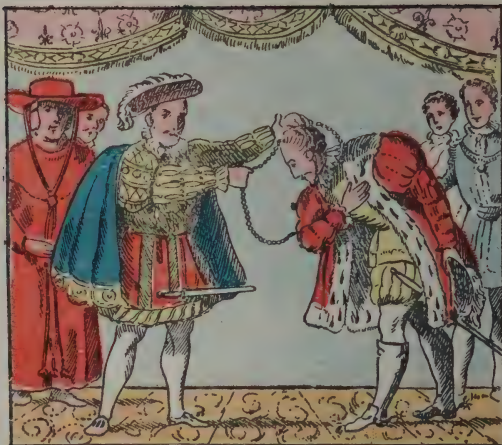
## THE PEACEMAKING OF THE ROSES

THE Wars of the Roses, which had meant such misery and wretchedness for England, ended quite happily in a grand wedding. This was the marriage of Henry VII, the leader of the Red Roses, to Elizabeth of York, the lady of the White Rose party. Besides the happy marriage that started the reign, many other good things happened in Henry's time, for he was a peaceful man, and preferred to keep friends with other nations

instead of fighting them. He was not a spendthrift King, nor did he tax his people unjustly, though he kept a tight hand upon his nobles. English trade improved with foreign countries, and it was about this time that Christopher Columbus, the Spaniard, and Sebastian Cabot, the Englishman, sailed across the Atlantic Ocean, and were the first white men to set foot on the shores of America.

Two boys, who each pretended they had a right to the crown, both gave Henry some trouble. The first was named Lambert Simnel, who collected an army of 2,000 men, and marched towards London. Henry

easily defeated the rebels, and to show how little he thought of Lambert Simnel's claim, he neither beheaded him nor sent him to prison, but simply made him a scullion in his kitchen. The other pretender was Perkin Warbeck, who falsely declared he was one of the Princes in the Tower, who had escaped from his murderers. Henry defeated him also, and would have spared his life, too, but he would keep escaping from prison and making more trouble, so it was his own fault that he was hanged at last.



*The Field of the Cloth of Gold.*

*A.D. 1530.*

## THE FIELD OF THE CLOTH OF GOLD

**A**LTHOUGH Henry VIII is generally remembered as a cruel man, who married six wives, and grew so stout he could hardly move, when he came to the throne he was a slender, handsome, merry Prince, who was heartily loved by his people. Francis I of France was young and good looking, and fond of gaiety, also, and the two youthful monarchs decided to meet together at a place near Calais, partly for business, but mostly for pleasure. They camped

in silken tents, embroidered with gold flowers, and all the great nobles of England were there with their wives and daughters, and everybody was dressed in silks and velvets and gold and jewels. The two Kings crowned each other with laurels, and the days passed in feasting and pleasure, and so gorgeous and magnificent was the display that the place has ever since been called "The Field of the Cloth of Gold."

Henry loved good company, and his best friend at that time was Thomas Wolsey, who, though a poor man, won his master's heart with his wit and wisdom and good looks,

and became Archbishop of York and the King's Chancellor. For seventeen years Wolsey was the most powerful man in England. Then the King quarrelled with him, accused him of treason, and ordered him to be imprisoned in the Tower. On the way to London, Wolsey was taken ill, and died at Leicester Abbey. But, before he died, he exclaimed, with great sadness, "If I had served my God as diligently as I have served the King, He would not have given me over in my grey hairs."



*The first English Bible presented to King  
Henry the Eighth. A.D. 1534.*



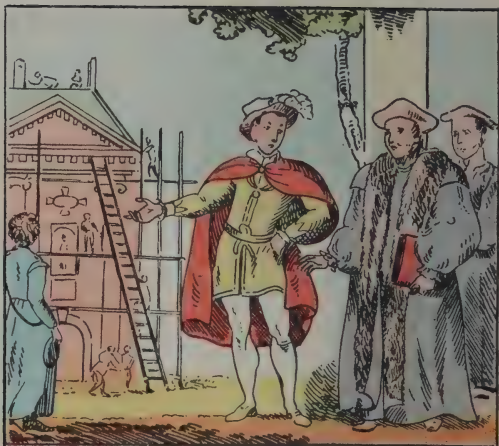
## THE PEOPLE BECOME PROTESTANTS

**I**T was while Henry the Eighth was on the throne that the religion of England began to change, and a great many of the people became Protestants, as they are now, instead of Roman Catholics, as they had been since those old days when St. Augustine turned their hearts from their heathen gods. Henry himself was a Protestant, and ordered a copy of the Bible to be printed in English and placed in every church, so that the people could hear it read in their

own language, and not in Latin, which few could understand. These great Bibles were chained to the reading desks, and the people gathered round, while some person, more learned than themselves, read chapter after chapter, and they all thanked the King for the good rule that he had made.

But as the years went on, Henry grew selfish and cruel. If anyone opposed his unjust will, he sent them to the Tower and cut off their heads, and two of his unfortunate wives were executed simply because he was tired of them. Everybody feared him, and few were sorry

when he died ; yet, in spite of all his faults, the common people always kept a warm corner in their hearts for Bluff King Hal, as he was called. Henry may have been a bad man, but he was not altogether a bad King. He founded some of our greatest hospitals, and looked after our navy, not only improving the fighting ships of his day, but taking great care of the sturdy English oak trees, which were to make the fighting ships of the future.



*The founding of Christs Hospital by King Edward VI*  
A.D. 1553

## THE BOY KING OF ENGLAND

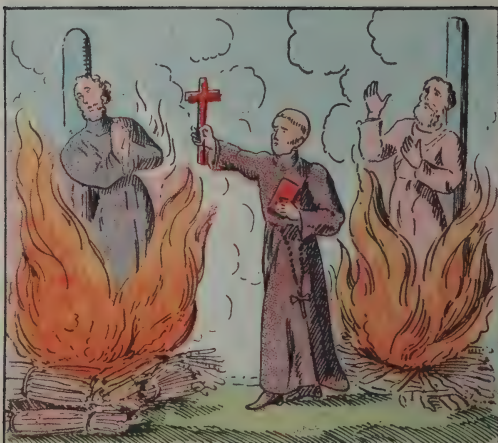
EDWARD VI was only nine years old when Bluff King Hal, his father, died, and at nine years old it is better to be playing games with other boys than to be studying, and learning how to be a good King. But if a boy was born a King in those days, he did not have much fun, and as little King Edward's guardians were always quarrelling, they made it impossible for him to have a good time at all. He was a sweet-tempered, gentle boy, but though he was quite willing to be advised by

his uncles, the Duke of Somerset and Lord Seymour, the other nobles became jealous of them, and they were both beheaded. The young King was never allowed to see his sisters Mary and Elizabeth, as their friends were anxious to take the crown from him, and the nobles who were on his side made him sign a paper promising that his cousin, Lady Jane Grey, should reign after him. Edward loved his cousin very dearly, but he knew she had no right to be queen. Still, he was too young to help himself, and had to do just what he was told.

However, the little King did not

have to bear his worries very long. Before he was sixteen he caught the small-pox and died, after he had been on the throne for six years.

But the boys of London will not forget Edward the Sixth, for he did not forget them, and set aside a lot of his money to build Christ's College, which we now call "The Bluecoat School." He watched the school being built with great interest, and though that old building is no longer there, the scholars still wear the same long blue coats and yellow stockings they wore in the days of the boy King.



*The Burning of Ridley and Latimer. A.D. 1556.*



## THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

**A**S soon as Edward VI died, the cousin he was so fond of, Lady Jane Grey, was crowned. She was only seventeen, and both good and beautiful, and was very sorry to leave her books and her quiet life at home, to be Queen of England. A few days afterwards Princess Mary was also proclaimed queen by her friends, and as her party was the strongest, Lady Jane Grey was sent to prison and beheaded though she had never done anything wrong.

But Mary was a hard woman, and

as soon as she was Queen she made the people feel her power, and showed little mercy to anybody who stood in her way. She hated the Protestants, and thought everybody ought to be a Roman Catholic like herself, and ordered those who disobeyed her to be burnt alive. She thought that by burning their bodies she was saving their souls, and believed she was doing right.

At Oxford, two good bishops, named Ridley and Latimer, were both burnt together. "Be of good cheer, Master Ridley," cried Latimer, as the flames leaped round them, "for we shall this day light such a candle in

England as shall never be put out ! ”  
His words were true. Although more than two hundred people were burnt at the stake in Mary’s reign, the Protestant religion grew stronger and stronger, for instead of frightening their friends into obedience, the sufferings of the brave martyrs only made people more determined to worship God in their own way.



*The Princess Elizabeth in the Tower*

*A.D. 1558.*

## GOOD QUEEN BESS

QUEEN MARY was a most unhappy woman. Her husband, King Philip of Spain, treated her with neglect and unkindness, and though she had burnt the Protestant martyrs to please the Pope of Rome, in the end she quarrelled with him also, and when she died of fever, after a short reign, nobody mourned her loss. Her life had been so full of disappointments that she must be pitied for her wretchedness, and it ought not to be forgotten that she thought she was doing right when she was being most cruel.

Her sister, the Princess Elizabeth,

was kept a prisoner all through Mary's reign, because she was supposed to be a rival to the crown. Elizabeth had a very anxious time when she was a captive in the Tower, knowing that any day Mary might order her head to be cut off. She spent many hours on her knees reading the Bible aloud to her attendants, and it was a great relief to her mind when the great men of England came to tell her that Mary was dead, and she was now to be their Queen.

Elizabeth was twenty-five years old, good looking, and clever, and when she was crowned there were

great rejoicings all over the land. And, indeed, there was a good time coming, for every man seemed to do his very best to work for the good of his Queen and his country. All the people who had been imprisoned because of their religion, were set free, and life became more comfortable for everybody. Chimneys were put in houses instead of holes in the roof, and glass was used for windows. Ladies and gentlemen dressed in bright silks and velvets, the poor were taken care of, and England grew a great and prosperous country in the days of "Good Queen Bess."



*The defeat of the Spanish Armada -  
A.D. 1588.*



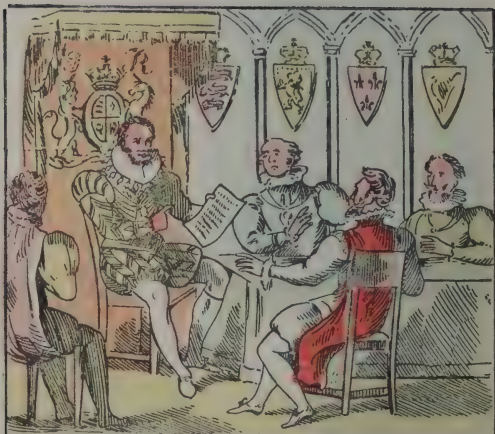
## THE SPANISH ARMADA

THOUGH a great many gentlemen courted her, Queen Elizabeth was never married. One of her suitors was the King of Spain, and when Elizabeth said, "No, thank you," he was extremely annoyed, and determined to come and conquer England and make all the people turn Roman Catholics again. So he gathered together all his great warships, and filled them with 20,000 soldiers. His fleet of seventy vessels was called the "Invincible Armada," and the ships were so huge and so

gorgeously decorated that they looked like floating palaces, while there were only thirty-four little ships in the English navy.

When the Invincible Armada, sailing in the shape of a great crescent, and covering seven miles of sea, appeared off the coast of Cornwall, there was no doubt that England was in terrible danger. However, though the Spanish Admiral was a Duke, he knew nothing about sea fighting, while the English captains, Drake and Hawkins and Sir Walter Raleigh, were the best sea fighters the world has ever seen. They sailed up to the Armada, and drove their

quick little ships in among the gorgeous Spanish galleons, which were too big and clumsy to turn and catch them, then they sent fireships among the enemy, who either caught fire or ran into each other. Chased by the plucky little British vessels, the Invincible Armada drifted helplessly into the North Sea, where a terrible storm wrecked so many that only a very few battered, beaten ships ever reached Spain. And that was the end of the Spanish Armada, which came to conquer England, and left her mistress of the sea instead.



*The Gunpowder Plot discovered by King James the  
First. A.D. 1605.*

## GUNPOWDER PLOT

JAMES THE FIRST was a Scotsman, and when the crown was put on his head he was King not only of England, but of Scotland too. Now, it may be a very proud thing to be King of England and Scotland, but it is not always a pleasant one, as King James soon discovered. A great many people who thought he had no right to wear the crown, were always meeting together and planning secretly how they could kill him. This made the King so nervous and distrustful even of his friends, that he sent poor Sir Walter Raleigh, the splendid sailor, to prison

for fifteen years, and then cut his head off because he thought he was his enemy. This was a sad mistake and a silly one, but James was right sometimes.

One day a nobleman received a letter warning him not to go to Parliament on the 5th of November, because all who did would "receive a terrible blow and should not see who hurt them." The nobleman showed the letter to the King, who at once guessed that his enemies meant to blow up Parliament with gunpowder. Sure enough, on the 5th of November, in the dark cellars beneath the House of Lords, they found thirty-six barrels of gunpowder, and a man named Guy Fawkes

standing with a lighted match in his hand ready to set fire to them. But his wicked plan was stopped just in time, and that is how the King's good guess saved his own life and the lives of his Lords and Bishops.

Though that happened three hundred years ago, we still dance round Guy Fawkes burning in a bonfire, and let off squibs and crackers and rockets, every 5th of November ; and though some people say that James the First was a foolish King and not much use to his country, the firework makers do not agree with them.



*The Trial of King Charles the First.*  
A.D. 1649.

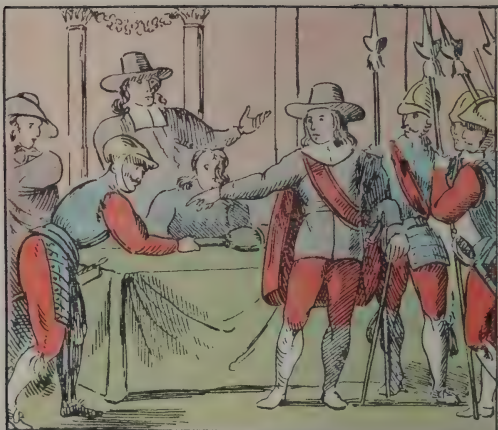


## A VERY SAD BUSINESS

THE reign of Charles I was entirely spoilt by the constant quarrels between the King and his Parliament, Charles fighting for his rights, Parliament fighting for theirs, and both fighting, as they thought, for the good of England. At last, Charles refused to have a Parliament at all, and ruled the country by himself. But this only led to even greater trouble, and war soon broke out between the King's followers, who were called Cavaliers, and wore rich clothes and long, curling hair, and the Parliament men, who were called Roundheads, because their hair was

short, and they wore plain, dull-coloured garments. Many terrible battles were fought, and in the end the Cavaliers were beaten, and King Charles captured and brought a prisoner to London, to be tried before his judges. But Charles was not afraid. He sat down before his enemies with his hat on, because he was their King, and though they ought to have taken off their hats, only a few did so. They said he was guilty of a great crime in making war against the Parliament, and sentenced him to be beheaded in three days' time. The Scotch tried to save him, so did the Dutch, and his eldest son, Charles, promised to do whatever Parliament wanted if they

would only save his father's life. But it was all in vain, the Parliament men said he must die. The King himself was quite calm and fearless. He said good-bye to his little girl and boy, who were also prisoners, and the next day walked cheerfully to the place of execution outside his own palace at Whitehall. He was beheaded without blaming or reproaching anyone, and many of his enemies forgot the wrong and foolish things he may have done, because they felt so sorry for him.



*Oliver Cromwell dissolving the long Parliament.*

*A.D. 1653.*

## A STURDY PROTECTOR

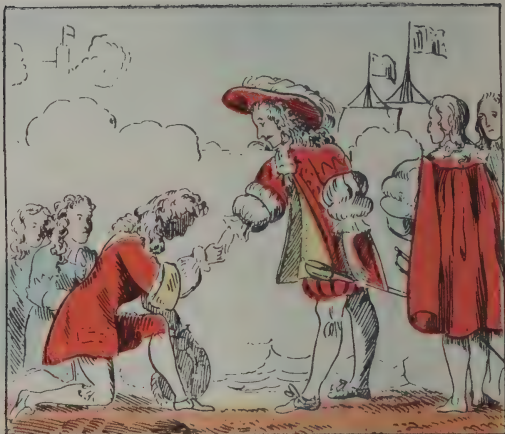
**W**HEN Charles the First was beheaded, the Parliament decided they would do without a king altogether. Prince Charles raised an army and tried to get back the crown, but the leader of the Roundhead Party, a great general, named Oliver Cromwell, won all the battles for the Parliament, and the Prince had many adventures in trying to escape from his enemies. He was often obliged to tramp for miles with no shoes on his feet, and one day he climbed into an oak tree and hid

among the branches while Cromwell's soldiers were looking for him underneath. Another time a kind lady dressed him up as her woman-servant, and let him ride behind her on horseback, and at last he found a ship that took him to France, where he stayed quietly for some years, while Oliver Cromwell was made Lord Protector of England.

Cromwell was a splendid soldier, and a strong-willed, clever man, but he found it easier to fight people than to talk them round, and he could not get on any better with Parliament than the last King had done. In fact, his Parliament made him so furious that one day he took 300 soldiers with him to the House

and drove all the members out of the door, and after that time he ruled the country by himself, as the Lord Protector of England.

Like the rest of the Roundheads, Oliver Cromwell was very stern and strict. He thought it was wrong for people to be merry and gay and wear pretty clothes, and would not allow entertainments or festivities. So, perhaps, it was only natural that, after a time, people grew tired of always being so solemn and serious, and began to think of young Prince Charles over in France, and wish he were back again.



*The Landing of King Charles the Second*  
A.D. 1660.



## THE MERRY MONARCH

WHEN Oliver Cromwell died, his son Richard was too easy-going and feeble a man to make a good Lord Protector of England. This made a fine opportunity for Prince Charles to come back from France, and he took care not to miss the chance. When he landed at Dover as King Charles II, all the people seemed so delighted to see him, that he exclaimed it was clearly nobody's fault but his own that he had not been back long before. King Charles the Second looked very different to the Roundhead leaders, being tall

and elegant, and beautifully dressed, and he was as different in ways as in looks, in fact, he was soon called the "Merry Monarch," because he loved gaiety, and was always ready for a joke. As soon as he was crowned he began to enjoy himself, and the people, who had had a very sedate and proper time under Cromwell, lost no time in following the King's example. Although Charles pardoned all his enemies except ten men who had ordered his father's execution, the serious-minded Roundheads were now persons of no importance, and the gay and graceful Cavaliers held all the high offices

and positions in the country. There were good Roundheads and bad ones, and there were good Cavaliers and bad ones, and, unfortunately, King Charles chose the bad ones for his friends. The worst of it was, what with all the merry-making and gaiety, the business of caring for England was neglected, so much so, in fact, that when we were at war with Holland, the Dutch fleet sailed right up the Thames, and would have come to London itself if the King had not hurriedly bribed them to go back again.



*The Fire of London*

*A.D. 1666.*

## THE PLAGUE AND FIRE OF LONDON

**I**T was while the Dutch war was going on that a terrible illness broke out in London. It was called the Plague, and a hundred thousand people died from it in one year. All the houses and shops were closed and the streets deserted, while the only sound that was heard was the wheels of the cart that came round to collect the dead bodies. London streets were very narrow in those days, and fresh air and cleanliness, which are the enemies of disease, were almost unknown. So the dread-

ful illness raged on, and almost every front door was marked with a red cross, and the words, " Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us," which warned the passer-by that the poor people inside were dying of the plague.

The next year another terrible thing happened to London. A small fire broke out in a baker's shop, near where the Monument stands now. It was a very windy day, and the flames spread from one house to another, and from one street to another, until all the middle part of London was a mass of flames. The fire lasted three days, for as all the houses were made of wood, they burnt easily, and the people were obliged

to fly for their lives, and save what furniture they could. The Thames was covered with boats filled with homeless people, and their belongings, and when at last the flames were put out, four hundred streets and thirteen thousand houses had been burnt to ashes. But, when London was built up again, it was seen that the great fire had really been a blessing, for the new streets were so much wider, and the new houses so much bigger and cleaner, that the plague never came again.



*The seven Bishops taken to the Tower.*  
A.D. 1688.



## AN UNHAPPY KING

**W**HEN King Charles came to the end of his pleasure-loving life, his brother James was made King. James the Second was much more serious-minded than the merry monarch, but he was a Roman Catholic, and when a Roman Catholic tries to rule a Protestant country there is sure to be trouble. The new King had an unhappy life because he made laws without consulting his people. But the time for that sort of thing had gone by for ever, because as the years went on the

people grew more powerful and the King less, so that when one day James sent out an order that one of his laws was to be read in all the churches, seven brave bishops refused to obey ; and in one or two churches, if the clergymen tried to read the new law the people walked out of church rather than listen to it. King James was furious, and ordered the seven bishops to be tried in a court of law. The bishops went in a boat on the Thames to the Tower, while the people stood on the banks and cheered them as they passed, and at their trial the jury said, " Not guilty," and the seven bishops

were set free. This made the King angrier than ever, but his anger was useless, for the people had had enough of him, and sent to ask William, Prince of Orange, to be King of England instead. William of Orange had married King James' daughter, Mary, and this gave them some right to be King and Queen ; but what pleased the people most was that he was not only a brave Prince, but a good Protestant as well.



*The Landing of K William the Third.* AD. 1688

## THE PRINCE OF ORANGE FOR ENGLAND

THE Prince of Orange sailed across the Channel with 500 ships and 14,000 soldiers, and landed on the south coast. The people crowded round him when he came ashore at Torbay, in Devonshire, and received him very joyfully. Meanwhile, King James had gathered an army to fight his son-in-law, but his soldiers deserted him, and soon he found himself forsaken by all but a few friends, who urged him to escape to France. William

was only too willing to make it easy for him to go, but once in France, James soon persuaded the French King to help him win back his kingdom again.

First he tried his luck in Ireland, but William defeated him at the Battle of the Boyne; then he came to England, where many people would have helped him if it had not been for his French army, for they knew that though the King of France had promised to help James, he really wanted to help himself—to all England, if he could. That was why James got on so badly, for though many people did not care for William

of Orange, they disliked the French King more, and the British fleet beat the French at La Hogue, which spoilt James' last chance of getting back his crown. So he was obliged to return to France, and stayed there for the rest of his unhappy life, for it must be very unsatisfactory to be a king without a crown in a strange land.



*The Bill of Rights confirmed William and Mary*  
A.D. 1689.



## AN UNSELFISH KING AND QUEEN

**W**ILLIAM OF ORANGE was now called William the Third of England, and with his wife, Queen Mary, he ruled the country justly and well. He was a thin, delicate man, who did not speak much, but meant what he said, and England grew richer and more important during his reign. About this time a new law was made, called "The Bill of Rights," which gave the people and Parliament more power and the King less. But neither

William nor Mary minded that. They signed the Bill quite willingly, for they knew that if kings had been checked in time past there would not have been such dreadful times of bloodshed and misery.

To show how much Queen Mary valued the welfare of her people, she turned her own palace at Greenwich into a hospital for the sailors who had been wounded in the war with France. She was a good Queen, and everybody was grieved when she caught the small-pox and died, for in those days small-pox was almost as common as a cold in the head is now. William mourned her greatly,

for she had been such a help to him. He did not marry again, but spent the rest of his reign in fighting the French King, who was his old enemy, and who was growing much too powerful. King William broke his collar-bone one day out riding, and though it was only a small injury, he was such a delicate man that he died from the shock.



*The taking of Gibraltar*

*A.D. 1704*

## THE CAPTURE OF GIBRALTAR

**W**HEN Good Queen Anne mounted the throne, a great war was being fought on the Continent. Several other nations were all fighting France, and England joined them because France was being very greedy, and trying to snatch pieces of country that did not belong to her. Anne sent her army abroad under the Duke of Marlborough, who was one of the most successful soldiers England has ever had. He never besieged a fortress without taking it, and he never fought a battle without

winning it. But great though his successes were on land, there was a still greater victory won by sea. This was the taking of Gibraltar, which belonged to Spain, and which is a strong fortress built on a rock, so placed that its guns can stop every ship passing in or out of the Mediterranean Sea.

One day when the few Spanish soldiers who defended the fortress had all gone to church, for it was a Saint's day, Admiral Rooke sailed up with an English fleet, and landing his sailors very quietly, entered the fort and took possession of it without the slightest difficulty. Gibraltar is

a very useful possession, for when it is properly defended it is almost impossible for it to be taken, because the sea is on one side of it and a high cliff which no enemy can climb on the other, so that though England took it easily, it will be a very difficult matter to get it away from her.



*The Battle of Blenheim*

*A.D. 1704.*



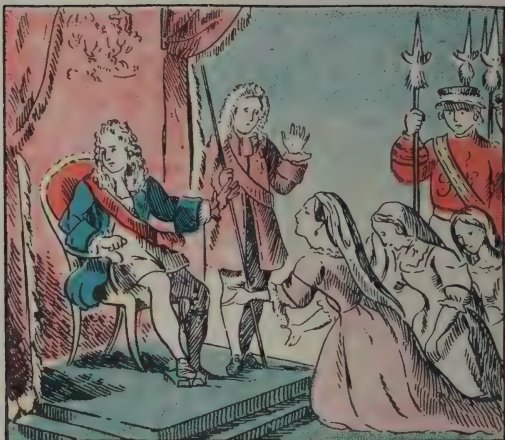
## A FIGHTING DUKE.

TEN days after Admiral Rooke captured Gibraltar, the Duke of Marlborough fought the French at a little place called Blenheim, on the banks of the River Danube. The enemy had taken up a very good position at the back of a swamp, which was so muddy and treacherous they thought it was impossible for the English soldiers to get across. But very few things are impossible to English soldiers, and in this case Marlborough made an artificial road over the worst part, and rushing

upon the enemy, charged them three times, and utterly defeated them. Marlborough rode at the head of his men, and once was so nearly hit by a cannon ball that for a minute he was lost to sight in the dust it made when it struck the ground, and for a time the soldiers thought their brave general was dead. But he was not even hurt, and when he got back to England, Queen Anne loaded him with wealth and honours.

A great many people in England, however, thought that Marlborough made the war last a long time just because he was so fond of fighting. These people were called Tories, while

Marlborough's friends were called Whigs, and the Tories got their own way and stopped the war, and took away Marlborough's power. Queen Anne let them fight it out in their own way—for she was an easy-going soul, and did not like to bother herself much about anything.



*The Countess of Nithsdale begs the life of  
her husband of K. George 1<sup>st</sup>. A.D. 1715.*

## A VERY BRAVE LADY

AS Queen Anne had no children, when she died a German prince, named George of Hanover, was made King of England. Anne's brother James had the best right to the crown ; but he was a Roman Catholic, and as Prince George was a Protestant, he was crowned King George the First. Not that he cared a bit for the English. He could not even trouble to learn their language, or try to alter his German ways to suit them, and some Scottish lords gathered their soldiers together to fight for James, who was called "The Old Pretender." However,

they did no good, and were all captured and brought to London to be beheaded. One of them was the young Lord Nithsdale, who had married a brave and beautiful wife. When she heard that her husband was going to be put to death, she mounted her horse and, though the snow lay thick on the ground, she rode right from Scotland to London. She managed to get into the King's palace, and throwing herself on her knees before him, she entreated him to spare her husband's life. But King George only shook his stolid German head, but gave Lady Nithsdale permission to say goodbye to

her husband in prison, and to take a lady with her. Between them they wore a good many extra clothes, and as soon as they were alone with the prisoner, they quickly dressed him up like a woman. Then, putting a handkerchief up to his face, he passed out with Lady Nithsdale as her weeping lady friend, and drove away in a carriage waiting outside. The guards and soldiers only gazed at the two sorrowful figures with pitying eyes—and found out their mistake too late, for by that time their prisoner was safely on his way to France.



*The Battle of Culloden.*

*A.D. 1746.*



## THE YOUNG PRETENDER

**I**N the next reign, when George II was on the throne, the son of the Old Pretender made a much better fight than his father had done to get back the crown. Bonnie Prince Charlie, as the young Pretender was called in Scotland, was young, handsome, brave, and romantic, and certainly would have made a better-looking king than the stout and elderly German who was on the throne of England. It was greatly because of his handsome face and delightful manners that so many

people joined him, for though he only had seven followers when he landed in Scotland, people flocked after his banner as he marched southward, until by the time he reached Edinburgh, he had a fine army of 3,000 fighting Highlanders. He won two or three battles, and marched into England, and if the King of France had helped him then, as he had promised, he might have conquered England as well as Scotland.

But France held back, and after getting as far as Derby, Bonnie Prince Charlie, much against his will, was obliged to retreat before the English army. Though the

Highland chieftains were all devoted to the Prince, they were very jealous of each other, and many went home in a bad temper. From that time everything went wrong, and when he fought his last battle with the English at Culloden Moor, the poor young Prince had not many men left. His brave Highlanders fought as bravely as lions, but the English army was too strong for them, and Bonnie Prince Charlie was utterly defeated.



*The Escape of the Pretender*

*A.D. 1746.*

POOR BONNIE PRINCE  
CHARLIE !

**B**ONNIE PRINCE CHARLIE was now in a very bad way. He did not know where to go, and a reward of £30,000 was offered to anyone who could catch him. Sending away the few followers he had left, he wandered about the wild Highlands, meeting all kinds of adventures, and often hiding in caves and among the rocks. But in spite of the reward, the Highlanders would have died rather than betray their young master, and at last a brave

Scotch girl, named Flora Macdonald, took pity on him, and helped him to escape, and disguising him as her old Irish servant, managed to get him to the coast, where a vessel was waiting to take him to France. Sadly, the poor young Prince said goodbye to Scotland, and if he shed a few bitter tears of disappointment no one will blame him. He died abroad, and had no children, so that was the last time any attempt was made by his family to get the throne of England.

During the rest of George's reign two very important things happened. One was the conquest of Canada by

General Wolfe, and the other was the conquest of a great part of India by Lord Clive. It is a very fine thing for a small nation like England to have large countries belonging to her over the sea. These countries are called Colonies, and they are as useful to England as England is to them. England owes her great Colonies to the plucky Englishmen who have sailed away in search of adventure, and discovered new lands full of wealth and prosperity for their Motherland to rule over.



*King George the third encouraging the Diffusion  
of Religious Knowledge* A D 1760.



## THE LONG REIGN OF FARMER GEORGE

**G**EORGE THE THIRD was an Englishman born and bred, and everyone was glad to have an Englishman on the throne again. He reigned longer than any other king ; but as he was a good peace-loving man, his long reign was a blessing to the country. So fond was he of a quiet country life, that the people called him "Farmer George," and as he was a stout, pleasant-faced, red-cheeked man, the name suited him very well.

When he came to the throne his first act was to make peace with the whole world, and it was his great desire to spread the teaching of religion into all countries. Missionaries always found a friend in the King, who liked to receive them and hear all about their work. But in spite of his peace-loving nature, his reign was full of wars. First of all, the Americans, who were English subjects, wanted to rule themselves without interference from England, and they showed they were powerful enough to do it, too. For when an English army went to punish them for disobedience, the Americans

fought so well that the English were beaten, which may have served them right, as they had been rather unreasonable in their treatment of the Americans. In any case, America has not only managed her own affairs ever since, but has managed them so well that she has become one of the greatest nations of the world.



*The Death of Lord Nelson*

*A.D. 1805.*

## THE BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR

**M**EANWHILE a terrible war was going on in Europe, for France was fighting everybody and getting the best of it, and it was quite time for England to try to keep her in check. At this time there was an Admiral in the English fleet called Horatio Nelson. He was a small, plain-looking man, who had lost one arm and the sight of an eye in battle, but he was the greatest sailor England has ever had. The French and Spanish fleets joined together with the idea of invading

England, which was bad news for the English.

Thirty thousand men volunteered to fight to protect their country, and they might have got a chance of doing it, if it hadn't been for Lord Nelson and his navy. When the English fleet met the French and Spanish navies in the Bay of Trafalgar, Nelson, from the deck of his flagship, "The Victory," sent the message round to all his other ships : "England expects every man will do his duty." His message was not in vain, for the English ships won a glorious victory. In the middle of the fight, a Frenchman aimed his

gun at Nelson, and shot him fatally in the shoulder, but before he died, the brave Admiral knew the battle had been won and England was safe from the French, and his last words were : “ Thank God I have done my duty.”



*The Flight of Buonaparte after the Battle  
of Waterloo.*

*A.D. 1815.*



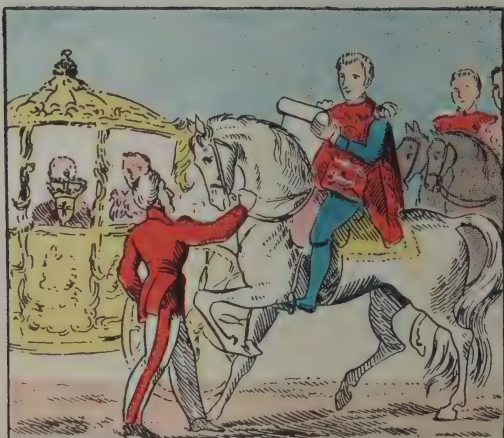
## THE ENGLISH AT WATERLOO

**F**RANCE owed her great power at this time to Napoleon Buona-  
parte, who started as a humble lieutenant, and by his wonderful cleverness soon became head of the French army, and later on Emperor of France. All the countries of Europe joined together failed to conquer him, he won battle after battle, and made himself master of Europe. But he had a great English General, the Duke of Wellington, to reckon with before he could call himself master of England.

The two armies met at Waterloo, and a terrible battle raged all through one Sunday. The English soldiers formed themselves into squares, which were bristling with bayonets, and were so solid that even if a cannon ball came tearing through them the soldiers only moved closer together, and silently filled up the gaps. Those solid English squares won the battle ; the French tried to break through them till they were weary ; and then Wellington gave the order for all his line of battle to advance. The French army scattered before the charge, and Napoleon left the battlefield as fast as he could,

for all was lost, and the power of France broken at last.

Napoleon died on the small island of St. Helena, where he was kept a captive, but his body was brought back to Paris and buried in a splendid tomb, for he will always be remembered as one of the greatest men who ever lived.



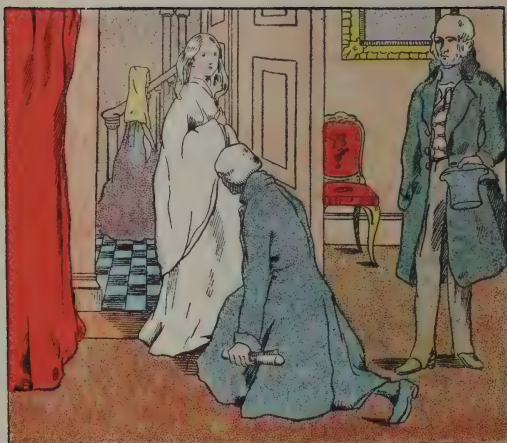
*King William IV<sup>th</sup> Proclaimed.* A.D 1830

“ BRITONS NEVER SHALL BE  
SLAVES ”

**W**ELCOME years of peace came to England after so much fighting, and people had time to think of improvements on the old ways of doing things. For instance, the steam engine was invented, and machinery for making our clothes. There were good roads to walk on, and policemen to keep order, in fact, England was beginning to look a good deal more like it does now, when George the IV was King. He was a handsome, dignified man, and had such polished manners that he won the name of “ The first

gentleman of Europe.''' But no other pleasant thing can be said about him, for he was vain and selfish, unkind to his wife, and unloved by his subjects. But, though his brother, who became William the IV, was 65 when he came to the throne, he was always a favourite with the people, because he had been a sailor, and they took a fancy to his bright and breezy behaviour. In William's reign one very good law was passed, setting free all the slaves kept by English people abroad. These poor negro people had been brought from their own country, Africa, and sold in a slave market to anybody who could afford to buy them. They had no money themselves, and no

friends, and if their masters were cruel there was no one to fight for them. At last Parliament decided to make every slave a free man, and though two million pounds had to be paid to the slave owners to make them set their slaves free, never was money better spent. In the old days of cruelty and bloodshed, Englishmen fought for their liberty with their lives, and now they had learnt to love freedom not only for themselves, but for other people as well.



*Accession of Queen Victoria* A.D. 1837.



## THE GREATEST QUEEN

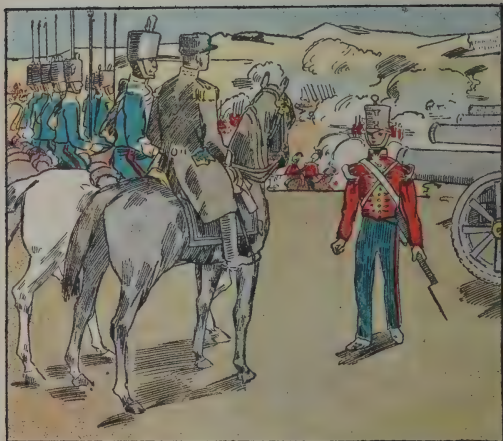
ONE Summer morning, a little princess was lying asleep in Kensington Palace, when two great men of England knocked at the Palace door, and said they must see her at once. Her ladies awakened her, and she hurried down in her nightgown to hear the news, with a shawl around her and her fair hair falling about her shoulders. The two messengers fell on their knees and told her that her uncle, William IV, was dead, and she was now Queen of England. The Princess's

eyes filled with tears at the thought of all the great duties that lay before her, but she brushed them away, and from that moment began to live the serious life of a great lady and a good Queen. This was Victoria, whose reign of sixty-three years was the longest and most glorious that the country has ever known.

England had been growing up for a long time, and in Victoria's reign it grew very fast indeed, both in power abroad and in progress at home. Railways were built everywhere, and a train journey began to be looked upon as quite an ordinary affair, instead of a very dangerous adventure. People could now send letters for a penny, and feel pretty

sure their friends would receive them, and the telegraph was invented, though it cost a great deal more to send a telegram then than it does now.

The Queen and the Prince Consort, her husband, had nine children, and so they were very glad when Parliament passed a Bill forbidding little children to work down coal mines and in factories, and soon after free schools were built in every town, to teach boys and girls to become useful men and women when they grew up.



*Lord Raglan at the Battle of Inkerman*  
A.D. 1854.

## INDIA AND THE CRIMEA

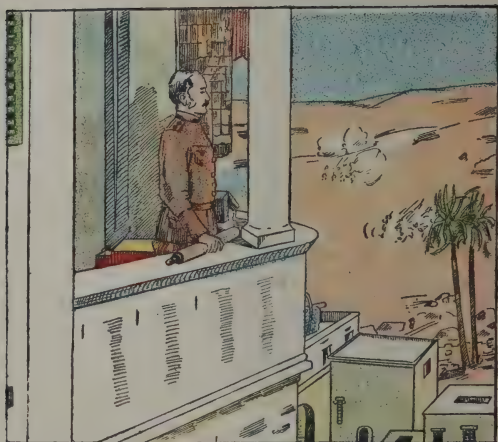
**B**UT such a long reign as Queen Victoria's could not pass without its troubles, and one of the most terrible things that happened was the Indian Mutiny, when the natives of India rebelled against their English masters, and killed white men and women and children most cruelly. They were punished, and the country was put in order again, and gradually, by kind and just government, England has made her Indian subjects her friends instead of her enemies.

Later on, when Turkey was attacked by Russia, England and France sent armies to help the Turks, and to prevent Russia becoming too

powerful. This was the Crimean War, and there some tremendous battles were fought. Once at Balaclava, in the Crimea, a troop of English Cavalry, called "The Light Brigade," were ordered by mistake to charge the Russian guns. The Light Brigade knew perfectly well that a mistake had been made, but as it is a soldier's first duty to obey, they charged the guns, and were nearly all killed, as they expected to be.

At the Battle of Inkerman, the English were taken unawares by the Russians on a dark and drizzling autumn morning. They were short of cartridges, and the Russian army was six times as big as their own. But that sort of thing does not worry

British soldiers. By dogged fighting they managed to hold their own till the French came to help them, and the English General, Lord Raglan, showed such bravery that he was made a Field-Marshal on the spot. The Russians were beaten in the end, but the English had a terrible winter in that cold country, though the wounded were nursed and cared for by a brave lady, named Florence Nightingale. She left her pleasant English home to help and comfort the poor men in the Crimean hospitals, and her name will never be forgotten by British soldiers.



*General Gordon at Khartoum* A.D. 1885.



## THE HERO OF KHARTOUM

**T**HERE is another name that will always be remembered by Englishmen whether they are soldiers or not, and that is the name of General Gordon, the hero of Khartoum.

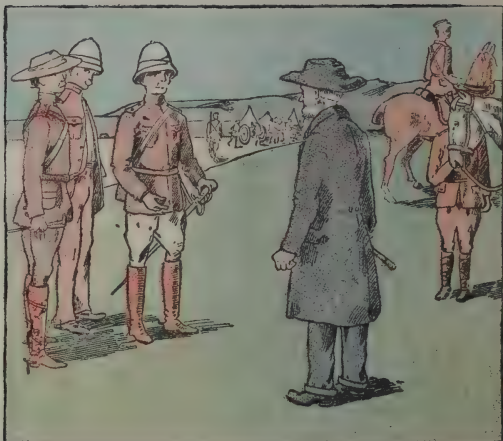
When the Khedive—or King—of Egypt was threatened by his enemy, the Mahdi, he asked England to help him, so a British force was sent under General Gordon, to try and arrange things comfortably in the Soudan, the desert country that the Khedive and the Mahdi were quarrell-

ing about. General Gordon had been working and caring for poor, down-trodden native people all his life, but his task in the Soudan was very difficult, for the Mahdi's followers thought their leader was a prophet sent from God, and they fought so magnificently that they won several battles, and at last General Gordon was shut up in the city of Khartoum, while the Mahdi and his Arabs besieged it for ten long weary months.

The English Government kept promising to send help, but they delayed doing it again and again, and though General Gordon cheered his starving garrison, and encouraged them to be brave and patient, he often looked out of his window across the sandy

desert for the British troops, but looked in vain.

At last the promised help was sent, and after a long and weary struggle across the desert, the English army reached Khartoum. But they were too late, the starved soldiers, too weak to fight any longer, had surrendered the day before, and General Gordon had been shot dead in the streets. His last words were, "I have tried to do my duty," and in honour of his brave life and example, the English made Khartoum into a splendid city, and built a beautiful Cathedral there in his memory.



*The Surrender of Cronje*

*A.D. 1900.*

## THE BOER WAR

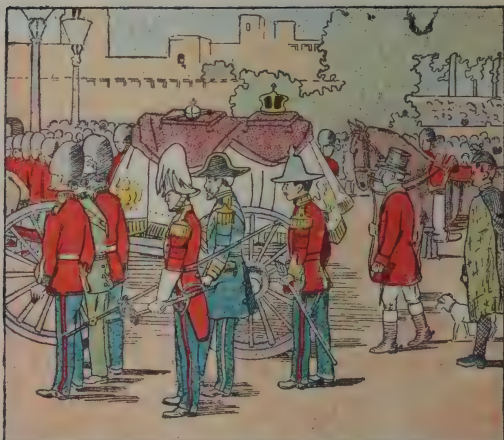
**W**HEN Queen Victoria was quite an old lady, England had a war with the Boers, who were Dutch people who had settled in South Africa. A great many English had settled there, too, but the Boer President, whose name was Kruger, treated them so unfairly, that at last an army was sent from England to protect them, and fight the Boers. People thought it was only going to be a little war, so only a few troops were sent. But they soon found out their mistake. The Boers were splendid fighters, and though they had no regular army, every man and

boy carried a gun, and could shoot straight, besides being quite at home in South Africa, which was a very difficult country for strangers to fight in. Most of the Boer generals were farmers, and a good many of them were preachers, for they were grave, religious people, a good deal like the Roundheads, who fought the Cavaliers in the old days in England.

At first the Boers won all the battles, and were very pleased with themselves, and it was only when England sent a big army, with Lord Roberts in command, that South Africa was conquered. General Cronje, the Boer leader, who was

a farmer-soldier, and looked like a parson, surrendered to Lord Roberts ; but this did not happen before far too many brave soldiers had been killed on both sides.

The Boer War taught England that it is good for every man to be able to use a gun to defend his country, and also that Britain can depend for help on her countrymen abroad, when she wants it, for all her colonies sent soldiers and guns to South Africa, to fight for their Motherland when she was in trouble.



*The Funeral of Edward VII<sup>th</sup>*  
*A.D. 1910.*



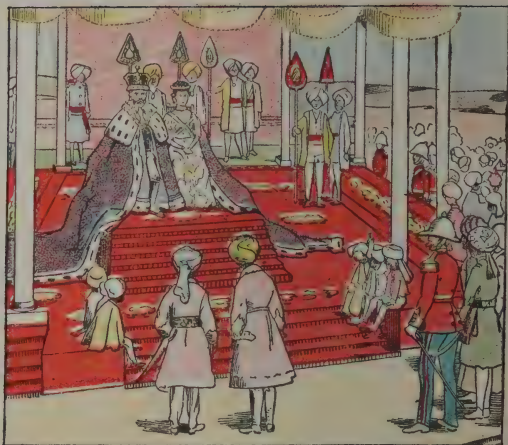
## EDWARD THE PEACEMAKER

**W**HEN Queen Victoria died, her eldest son, the Prince of Wales, became King Edward VII of England. Although King Edward only reigned nine years, he showed in that short time how much a King can do in keeping friends with other countries, and bringing peace and prosperity to his own. When there is peace at home, there is always time and money to spend over improvements and inventions. People not only began to drive quickly about the country in motor-cars, but also to

fly through the clouds in aeroplanes. Clever engineers burrowed into the earth and made tubes, where thousands can travel from place to place under the ground in cheerful and well-lighted trains, instead of getting in the way of traffic on the roads. Telephones, by which a child can talk to its daddy, even though they are hundreds of miles apart, were put up in a great many houses, and electric trams began to speed from place to place for the use of those who could not afford motor-cars.

It was a real grief to the whole nation when King "Teddy," as the people affectionately called him,

became very ill. The doctors did their best to save him, but he would go on with his work, until his last little bit of strength left him, and he died. Kings and Princes from all the countries of the earth came to his funeral, and walked mournfully beside his coffin through the sunny streets of London, while behind the dead King his servants led his riderless charger and his favourite dog, a sorrowful little wire-haired terrier, called "Cæsar."



*The Delhi Durbar*

*A.D. 1911.*

## THE DELHI DURBAR

EVERYBODY can remember the Coronation of King George V, for it happened only a year ago. A great many lucky children in England actually saw the King and Queen drive by in their golden chariot, wearing the crowns that had just been placed on their heads in Westminster Abbey, and those boys and girls who lived far away from London, took part in the Coronation festivities in their own towns, and heard the joy bells ring, and saw the bonfires blazing on the hills.

But there was a great English Empire across the ocean which wanted to see their King and Queen with their golden crowns on their heads, and this was the Empire of India. So King George and Queen Mary, with their Court, and many grand lords and ladies, sailed over the sea and had another kind of Coronation, called a Durbar, at Delhi, India's ancient capital. All the native princes and their retinues, dressed in gorgeous robes and glittering with precious stones, came to the great, open, decorated place where the Durbar was held, and bowing low before the thrones, they laid down their

swords at the feet of the King to show that they accepted him as their gracious master.

But before King George left India, they found that he was not only their master but also their friend, as he is the friend of each of his subjects, all the world over.

In the old days when a nation was conquered, the people were treated cruelly, and their possessions taken away ; but since England has grown up, she has learned to be wise and kind, and men and women and boys and girls know, that though they may be black or white, rich or poor, they will have protection from their

enemies, and freedom for themselves,  
wherever the Union Jack waves above  
them.





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